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Japan, Mr. Collins sets forth in an interesting and accurate way the methods employed by our federal government. These methods are then criticized and the executive budget proposed as a substitute for them. He proposes "the preparation and submission to Congress by the President of an itemized program for the government for the coming fiscal year; the ratification of this program by Congress, without amendments increasing it on the basis of the principle of executive responsibility; the spending of the money by the executive; the audit of the accounts by some agency independent of the executive but reporting to Congress, and the approval of the accounts by Congress." In chap. xi, entitled "Constitutional and Legal Questions Involved," he indicates in detail how the necessary changes might be made without amendment of the Constitution. On the whole the argument presented is excellent, but some of the difficulties which would be involved under our present system of federal government are passed over with slight or no consideration.

The Issue. By J. W. HEADLAM. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1917. 12mo, pp. vii+159. \$1.00.

This book is really an answer to German accusations that it is England who, by her immoderate demands, is barring the way to peace in Europe—a peace which Germany offers and has a number of times suggested. The attempt is made to prove that the real issue of the war is German desire to dominate all Europe. To establish his point, Mr. Headlam uses statements of German origin to show the basic reason why all suggestions for peace that have come from authoritative German sources are quite unacceptable. The sources used are the manifesto of the six industrial associations and that of the German professors, statements of the different party leaders, utterances of the Chancellor, and the written works of Prince von Bülow and Friedrich Naumann.

Germany cannot shift upon any other nation the blame of starting the war, says Mr. Headlam; for she deliberately defied the political custom of Europe by refusing "to allow the other powers to be consulted in a matter which had always been held to be a common European concern"—a conflict of interests between two powers. Therefore, there can be no lasting peace before Germany has changed her attitude and realizes that no one nation can hope to carry out her will against the united opposition of practically the whole of Europe. But peace will come "when Germany has learnt the lesson of the war, when it has found, as every other nation has had to learn, that the voice of Europe cannot be defied with impunity."

The Minimum Cost of Living. By WINIFRED STUART GIBBS. New York: Macmillan, 1917.

This study varies from other investigations of the cost of living in families of limited income in New York City in that the principles of scientific budget-making have been applied to the household expenditures. It therefore not

only indicates the total amount required to satisfy minimum needs and the percentage that must go for each purpose under the best possible use of the income, but also suggests some of the possibilities for family welfare of carefully planned expenditure.

The experiment was carried on in seventy-five dependent families by the Home Economics Staff of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor. The plan included careful estimates of minimum requirements, instruction in carrying out the budget planned, lessons in cooking and sewing. The ninety-three pages which constitute the book are pretty largely taken up by detailed records of the seventy-five expense accounts, the seventy-five dietaries, etc. The comment in the text is accordingly quite brief and summary.